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DWD Creates Preferred Provider Registry to Help W-2 Participants Access Specialized Services

First set of Milwaukee area service providers identified

Milwaukee - Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman announced today that the department identified the first set of providers to be included in a "Preferred Provider Registry" of specialized services for Wisconsin Works (W-2) participants in the Milwaukee area.

The Preferred Provider Registry lists eligible service providers that will be used by Milwaukee W-2 agencies to help W-2 participants access specialized services to help reduce barriers to employment. Examples of specialized services include AODA assessment and treatment, mental health assessment and treatment, and vocational evaluation. Milwaukee W-2 contract agencies will choose the appropriate agency from the Preferred Provider Registry to supply the specific services needed to help the participant successfully enter the workforce. The W-2 Contract Agencies will enter into a fee-for-service agreement with the provider.

The registry will also increase the diversity of W-2 related service providers in Milwaukee and build on the existing Milwaukee County service delivery infrastructure. The creation of the Preferred Provider Registry is part of a broader Milwaukee Wisconsin Works (W-2) delivery system strategy.

The first round of selections were completed for service providers in the following key areas:

- AODA clinical assessment, treatment and counseling;
- Mental health clinical assessment, treatment and counseling;
- Domestic violence assessment and assistance; and
- Vocational evaluation to augment the services of the W-2 agency.

DWD will make additional selections for the registry for these service areas. Applications are being accepted through December 31, 2005. Providers will also be added to the Registry for two remaining service areas:

- Functional capacity evaluation; and
- Learning disability clinical assessment.

Preferred Providers were selected based on their demonstrated connections to the Milwaukee community; array of services they can provide; demonstrated ability to provide gender, age and culturally responsive services; qualified staff with appropriate licensures and certifications as a provider of the service; unique features that make the provider exceptional in their service field; and demonstration that the agency is financially sound with appropriate financial management procedures in place.

DWD will conduct periodic reviews of the Registry to evaluate participant and W-2 agency satisfaction with the providers. Those providers who do not provide satisfactory service will be removed from the Registry. In addition, DWD will provide open Registry enrollment periods annually to allow new providers to be included.

The Preferred Provider Registry will be used by W-2 agencies throughout the W-2 Contract period of January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2009.

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Selected Providers by Category

AODA Services

Asha Family Services, Inc.
Benedict Center
Care Management Plus Community Clinic
Career Youth Development, Inc.
Genesis Behavioral Services, Inc.
Harambee Ombudsman Project, Inc.

Horizons, Inc.
La Causa, Inc.
M&S Clinical Services, Inc.
Meta House, Inc.
Shorehaven Counseling Associates, Inc.
Wisconsin Community Services, Inc.

Mental Health Services

Asha Family Services
Care Management Plus
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Inc.
Cornerstone Consulting Services, LLC
Counseling Center of Milwaukee, Inc.
Empowering Change
Inner Dynamics, Inc.
Jewish Family Services

La Causa, Inc.
M&S Clinical Services, Inc.
Milwaukee Center for Independence
New Concept Self Development Center
B. Marc O'Brien, Ph. D.
St. Charles Youth and Family Services, Inc.
Shorehaven Counseling Associates, Inc.
Sixteenth Street Community Health Center
Transitional Living Ser Inc.

Domestic Violence Services

Asha Family Services, Inc.
Attic Correctional Services, Inc.
Benedict Center
Cornerstone Consulting Services, LLC
Genesis Behavioral Services, Inc.

Hmong/American Friendship Association, Inc.
Sojourner Truth House, Inc.
Taskforce on Family Violence
UMOS Latina Resource Center

Vocational Evaluation

CorVel (in Waukesha)
Goodwill Industries of SE Wi., Inc.
Enrichment Opportunities Institute of Training, Inc.
Milwaukee Center for Independence

IB. Marc O'Brien, Ph.D.
Jayne M. Loeffler, Inc.
Silver Spring Neighborhood Center, Inc
Vocational Opportunities,

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Definition of each Service Area

Mental Health Assessment, Treatment and Counseling:

Programs which provide a comprehensive array of clinically and culturally competent assessment, treatment, intervention and referral services for individuals experiencing serious mental health problems.

AODA Assessment, Treatment and Counseling

Programs which provide a comprehensive set of clinically and culturally competent assessment, treatment, intervention and referral services for individuals experiencing serious alcohol and other drug abuse problems. Services are designed to help individuals deal simultaneously with recovery from chemical abuse/dependence along with work and family responsibilities.

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence services may include assessment of needs and supportive services such as counseling, temporary shelter, legal assistance and support groups.

Functional Capacity Evaluation

A functional capacity evaluation establishes the physical level of work an individual can perform for job placement, job accommodation or return to work after injury or illness. This type of evaluation can also provide objective information regarding functional work ability in the determination of occupational disability status.

Vocational Evaluation

A vocational evaluation is a comprehensive process using psychometric testing, work samples, and on-the-job assessments to guide individuals toward vocational preparation and ultimately to an appropriate occupational placement. An individual written evaluation plan is developed based on referral information and the stated overall purpose of the evaluation.

Learning Disability

A formal assessment for Learning Disabilities is carried out by a professionally-trained educational diagnostician, counselor, psychiatrist, or psychologist who selects, administers, and interprets different kinds of tests (educational, vocational, psychological, and neurological instruments) from which a diagnosis and recommendations are made. It is through a comprehensive assessment that an individual's current level of development is identified and a plan for meeting the individual's needs is developed.

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